

What is claimed:

- 1 1. A system for delivery of on-line content, comprising:
2 a server computer including a hierarchical database;
3 the server computer is adapted to
4 receive information for inclusion in the
5 hierarchical database;
6 search information contained in the hierarchical
7 database at multiple levels in the hierarchical database;
8 retrieve information contained in the
9 hierarchical database identified as a result of a search;
10 and
11 build content from information received for
12 inclusion in hierarchical database and from information
13 retrieved from the hierarchical database.
- 1 2. The system of claim 1 wherein the hierarchical database
2 includes objects, which represent units of information
3 contained in the hierarchical database, and at least one
4 larger unit of information, which represents a grouping of
5 objects.
- 1 3. The system of claim 2 wherein the larger unit of
2 information represents a concept.

- 1 4. The system of claim 2 wherein the larger unit of
2 information represents a topic.
- 1 5. The system of claim 2 wherein the larger unit of
2 information represents a course.
- 1 6. The system of claim 2 wherein the larger unit of
2 information represents a series.
- 1 7. The system of claim 2 wherein the information in the
2 hierarchical database can be searched at the object level.
- 1 8. The system of claim 3 wherein the information in the
2 hierarchical database can be searched at the concept level.
- 1 9. The system of claim 4 wherein the information in the
2 hierarchical database can be searched at the topic level.
- 1 10. The system of claim 5 wherein the information in the
2 hierarchical database can be searched at the course level.
- 1 11. The system of claim 6 wherein the information in the
2 hierarchical database can be searched at the series level.
- 1 12. The system of claim 7 wherein the information identified as
2 a result of the search can be previewed.

1 13. The system of claim 7 wherein the content is built from
2 information retrieved from the object level of the
3 hierarchical database.

1 14. The system of claim 8 wherein the content is built from
2 information retrieved from the concept level of the
3 hierarchical database.

1 15. The system of claim 9 wherein the content is built from
2 information retrieved from the topic level of the
3 hierarchical database.

1 16. The system of claim 10 wherein the content is built from
2 information retrieved from the course level of the
3 hierarchical database.

1 17. The system of claim 11 wherein the content is built from
2 information retrieved from the series level of the
3 hierarchical database.

1 18. The system of claim 2 wherein information contained in the
2 hierarchical database can be classified as part of an
3 object or larger unit of information.

1 19. The system of claim 2 wherein there are various types of
2 objects and the objects can be searched by type.